

H O B B Y

# Bandwagon



COLE BROS. CIRCUS BAND - SEASON of 1948

Henry Kyes, Bandmaster

LEFT TO RIGHT—Henry Kyes, leader and cornet; Happy Belisle, small drum; George Rove, trombone; Joe Fiore, baritone; Bob Heron, trombone; Jack Carrol, cornet; C. W. Swinger, cornet; Harry Armstrong, cornet; Ralph Gibbs, clarinet and sax; Jimmy Hurtt, cornet; Joe Woeckner, cornet; Frank Tonar, clarinet and sax; Bill O'Meis, trombone; Jackson Kyes, bass drum; Buddy Geiss, calliope; Larry Ganyard, bass.

Nov. -- Dec.  
1 9 4 8

- The Circusiana Monthly - 15c



HOBBY

## Bandwagon

(Formerly Hobby-Swapper)

122 South Main Street  
Camden, Ohio

November-December 1948

Vol. 3 No. 10-11

HARRY M. SIMPSON

Editor — Publisher

15c a single copy.

\$1.00 a year in U. S. A.

Display advertising rates sent  
upon application.

Permission to copy articles in  
this Magazine must be secured  
from both the author and pub-  
lisher.

## Circus Photos

FROM ORIGINAL NEGATIVES

Many from the Wm. Koford Collection

Partial List Now Ready

## SHANK PHOTOS

Clarence R. Shank  
Member of CHS and CFA  
Camden, Ohio

HOBBY-BANDWAGON, publish-  
ed monthly by Harry M. Simpson,  
Camden, Ohio. Entered as sec-  
ond-class matter at the post office  
in Camden, Ohio, under the act of  
March 3, 1879. Printed in U. S. A.

## The Publisher Says



We have combined the Novem-  
ber-December issues in order that  
this magazine could again be mail-  
ed on schedule, however, it is still  
late and this time will be gained  
in the very near future. Time was  
lost from various reasons and we  
are sorry.

All subscription expirations will  
be moved up one month and no  
one will lose except this publica-  
tion . . . you will still receive  
twelve issues for the money mail-  
ed to us for a year's subscription.  
We have lost what could have been  
a profitable Christmas edition, as  
many advertisements will arrive  
too late for this issue.

We believe that all publications  
should be mailed on schedule and  
although we are not altogether at  
fault, we take the blame, the loss  
and are taking these drastic means  
to bring the Hobby-Bandwagon  
to you the month that is printed  
on the cover.

Our sincere thanks to all who  
have been so patient and under-  
standing during these past three  
hectic months . . . it is greatly  
appreciated and we shall strive to  
gain more time in the near future.

Thanks for the fine cooperation  
during the past year, thanks to  
the many who have contributed  
worthy articles, thanks to our ad-  
vertisers and readers . . . may  
you all be blessed with a Merry  
Christmas and a Happy and Pros-  
perous New Year.

Sincerely,

Harry M. Simpson

Leonard Weigle of Atlanta, Ga.,  
relates that he saw his first circus  
parade in 1892. It was the Fore-  
raugh Show, before it united with  
Sells Bros. The Five Graces Band-  
wagon led the parade and the spec  
was "The Fall of Ninevah." Mr.  
Weigle has a fine collection of  
Band Wagon photographs.



# A Tour With The Mighty Haag Circus - Season 1911

Written for The Bandwagon by Charlie Duble (*Old Circus Trouper*)

On November 16, 1911, the John Robinson 10 Big Shows closed the season of seven months tour in New Albany, Mississippi. I had been with the circus the full season and a few days previous I had word from Dick Masters, bandmaster of the Mighty Haag Shows that he could place me for the balance of the season that would run up into December. I joined the Mighty Haag Show in Columbia, Alabama, Saturday, November 18, this being my first time with this show. I arrived on the lot that morning in time to enjoy a fine breakfast. I regret I do not have a complete list of all acts and these named I recall from memory. Performance opened with the regular grand entry, to the strains of "Caesar's Triumphant March," which was published in 1898 and composed by G. F. Mitchell, clarinet player, with the Ringling Show. This march has been played with many of the best shows for the tournament, over a long period of years, and cannot be excelled. Fred Jewell used the same march for the grand entry when he was bandmaster of the Barnum & Bailey Greatest Show on Earth 1909-10. Frank Miller was equestrian director and did his gents principal bareback riding number, and Clara Miller was premier equestrienne. The old time leaps came in the early part of the program, preceded by a song, a tuneful march melody "I'm The Leader of the German Band." Chas. (Bounding) Johnson did a bounding rope act being one of the best in his line. This act has entirely disappeared from the circus in recent years. Agnes DeEspa and Bill Johnson did double trapeze and other aerial numbers. Birdie Martino, rolling globe and club juggler. John Smith, now with Cole Bros., was on the list with his trained ponies and dogs. Miller and Smith also rode some nice menage horses along with lady

performers. The Woods trio did a tight wire act and Helen Leach, who also came from the John Robinson show, did an iron-jaw aerial butterfly number). Shorty Sylvester was a dwarf clown, Roy Fortune did his comedy slack wire number with a peg leg and played trombone in the clown band. Other clowns were Mardello, Henry, Gail Boyd, and McCammon. Mardello in his unparalleled contortions, came later in the program. Del-Fuego was leader of the clown band. Rudy Gonzallas performed the 3 well trained elephants. The three Millers did a nice flying return act, also the Si Kitchie troupe of Japs did a fine exhibition of foot juggling and difficult balancing. Jimmie O'Neil was a hand balancer and equilibrist. Performance closed with races, including a camel race with riders which no other show had to my knowledge. Doc Coates, a typical Texas, with his western hat, was official announcer in big show, also rode aside the driver of the No. 1 elaborate band wagon with heavy carvings of "Columbus discovering America" and drawn by 10 sleek dapule grays. Along the route Doc would call out those old familiar words: "Hold your hoss-es . . . the elephants are coming." Those warning words, with the other parade features of carved tableau wagons, open gilded dens, gaily costumed mounted people on spotted horses, the elephants, camels, and finally the steam callicpe, are all a pleasant memory to circus fans of today and some-

Next Page, Please

---

## HOLIDAY GREETINGS

To all members of CHS and Circus  
Friends

**CHARLIE DUBLE**  
Jeffersonville, Ind.



thing the younger generation has entirely missed.

The Big Top was 110 foot round with three 40 foot middles, 4 center poles. Performance presented in 2 rings and on center stage. Menagerie had 3 elephants, 9 camels and six or eight elaborate carved cages. Nellie King played the steam calliope in parade and on the lot of evenings, also did a clever musical act in the side show. George Oram was manager of the side show, also did his "Punch and Magic." Del Fuego, "the human salamander" and fire eater, was another attraction, also three Eskimo midgets, Chief DeBro nd wife, (no they were not from Alaska, but from Kendallville, Ind.) Eva McGuyre was an oriental dancer, her husband, Frank, was the Ernest Haag for many years in an official position. Fritz (Dutch) Myers was boss canvassman and Jim Finnigan train master. "Shorty" Rhodes was superintendent of stock and had been with the circus from the 1890's. Wm. Kellogg was legal adjuster and his wife a clever trapeze performer. Eddie Van Camp was boss of the light department. The type in use then were those with gas mantels, many shows including John Robinson's, used the same type for illumination.

Following Columbia, Alabama, is the route from by Billboard date book. Hartford, Florida, Evergreen, Mobile, then into Mississippi playing Lucedale, Hattiesburg, Taylorsville, Magee, Collins, Lumerton and Columbia. Show entered Louisiana December 2 at Franklinton, and next day was at Bogalusa, which was Sunday, then followed Slidell, Covington, Hammond, Baton Rouge, Opelousas, De Quincy, and closing stand was De Ridder Monday, December 11. The show spent some time in the Eastern provinces of Canada that summer. Quite a number of the Haag troupers, including myself, remained in Shreveport, and some of us were at the Antler Hotel right down town. The manager was a Mr. Schroder, who made things pleasant for us show folks. Dick Masters, leader of the band, was there all winter and eight others of the band. Frank McGuyre promoted a job or two for us during the lay off.

Every Wednesday morning, the Billboard (10 cents the copy then), came in at Sanger's Drug store, and we were on hand for our copy. I enjoyed the lay off as Shreveport was an ideal place during the winter months. A nice meal could be had at the California Restaurant for 25 cents. (In 1911 remember) I met "Shorty" Rhodes there often and we had many long talks. The Haag folks were made to feel at home there. I was one of the troupe again in 1912 when the season opened in Shreveport March 21—"The 18th Transcontinental Tour," an account of which appeared in The Bandwagon issue of April 1943.

---

Does your friend take Hobby-Bandwagon? Tell him about it.

---

---

Get Your  
**CIRCUS BALANCING CLOWNS**  
60c Prepaid



Hand made out of wood, fine for Xmas presents, will balance on side of table. You can't go wrong—you will like them or your money back.

**JOSEPH L. TRACY**

C. H. S. 106

172 Riverside Ave., Buffalo 7, N. Y.

---

**PHOTOS—BARNUM & BAILEY,**  
In Europe, list on request. Jake Posey, 549 North Maine St., Baldwin Park, Calif. 347

---

**ADVERTISING RATES**

1 inch .....	\$ 1.00
2 inches .....	\$ 2.00
4 inches .....	\$ 3.00
Full Page .....	\$10.00

Copy and remittance must be mailed at once to insure publication.

**HOBBY-BANDWAGON**  
Camden, Ohio

---



# The Bandwagon

News and Activities of the  
**CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Founded In 1939  
By Don Smith

Harry M. Simpson ..... Editor

## OFFICERS

Bette Leonard ..... President  
Maurice Alaïre ..... Vice-Pres.  
Walter Pietschmann ..... Treas.  
John Crowley ..... Secretary  
William Green ... Election Comm.

## PAST PRESIDENTS

Don Smith  
Walter Tyson  
Arthur Stensvard  
John VanMatre

## Christmas Message

A Christmas letter to all the members of CHS, both old and new:

Now that the end of another year approaches, and Christmas bells and holly wreathes welcomes the approach of the happiest time of the year, I want to tell you all how much your letters and good wishes has meant to me all through the year.

We have had some delays in the business of CHS, due to the illness of our secretary, John Crowley, and I thank you for bearing with us, on the delays in getting out the list of new members, etc. During the coming year I want to have out a new roster, and see all of you at the convention to be held at the "Circus City" of Baraboo, Wis., this coming summer, I would like to be able to smile in all of your faces, and extend you this greeting personally, but here is the next best thing, A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You from Me, Your President,

BETTE LEONARD

—o—  
Ed Donewirth, 621 N. Forest Rd., Williamsville, N. Y., is recovering from a recent illness at his home. Ed is a member of C. H. S. and all wish him a speedy recovery.

## NEW MEMBERS

380—Marvin W. Krieger, jr., Box 94, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N. M.

381—Lt. Howard C. Herron, U. S. Navy, FASRON FIVE, N. A. A. S., Oceana, Virginia Beach, Va.

382—Sidney Baker, 7 Penkivil St., Bondi, New South Wales, Australia.

383—Buel Lamar Gabbart, 285 Turk St., San Francisco 2, Calif.

384—Miss Eva Briggs, 7447 Grand River, Detroit 4, Mich.

385—Chief Keys, Fort Towson, Okla.

386—Tillie Keys, Fort Towson, Okla. (Associate).

387—Rodger Bashore, 2249 Valley Pike, Dayton, Ohio.

388—C. L. Brown, 318 Columbia St., South Bend, Ind. (Honorary).

389—George Leo Green, 1623 Holiday St., East End, East Liverpool, Ohio.



Christmas Greeting to my Friends:  
Just to wish you the grandest Christmas,

And the best and brightest year,  
To the finest friends that ever  
Made the ties of friendship dear.

BETTE LEONARD

WANTED—ROUTE CARDS. STATE what you have and price wanted.  
Harry M. Simpson, 122 S. Main St., Camden, Ohio.



## Circus Articles

TRUE, Sept. '48—"Strange People" by Daniel P. Mannix, color illus. . . . COSMOPOLITAN, Sept. '48—Color photo of Pat Valdo and RB&BB stars . . . HOBBIES, Sept. & Oct. '48—"The Circus Sideshow" (2 parts) by A. Morton Smith . . . PEOPLE AND PLACES (DEBOTO), Sept. '48—"Clown for a Day," illus. . . . LIFE, 9-27-48—"Life Goes To A Circus In Hollywood," 12 illus. . . . THIS WEEK, 10-31-48—"Bears In The Air," illus. . . . HOBBIES, Nov. '48—"The Circus In The Movies," by A. Morton Smith . . . LIFE, 11-22-48—"Jumbo The Barber," illus. . . . TRUE, Oct. '48—"True Sees a Cowbra Kill A Woman," illus. . . . READERS DIGEST, Nov. '48—"The Zaccinis—Human Cannonballs," . . . DOWNBEAT, 10-6-48—"Jackson Kyes, Air-Conditioned Drummer," illus. . . . RANCH ROMANCES, four installments of Nov. and Dec., '48—"Roll, Bright Wagons," by Isabel Stewart Way (fiction) . . . PAGEANT, Dec. '48—"Our Cover Girl's Comeback," illus. story of Jeanne Rockwell . . . MOVIE LIFE, Dec. '48—"Under The Big Top," 20 pages of illustrations of Hollywood-RB&BB benefit show (this is the best edition of all movie magazines on this show). Read the BILLBOARD every week.

All will be glad to learn that John Crowley, 7 Ninth St., Cambridge 41, Mass., is now on the road to recovery following a recent surgical operation. John is secretary of CHS and has spent most of the past four months in Cambridge hospital.

While perusing some old copies of POPULAR SCIENCE we found an interesting illustrated article called "Behind The Scenes at Circus Winter Quarters," in the Nov., 1937 number. In the Aug. '38 number we found an article called "Sword Swallower X-raved." The June, '35 number contained an article on carnivals that included circus acts and side-show freaks. The Nov., '35 issue had an article on Barnum's Museum.

## CHS PHOTOS

Members will receive four circus photos from the Circus Historical Society this month. No. 1 shows a RB&BB litho stand at Waukesha, Wisc. in 1947. Milwaukee is 20 miles and Madison is 65 miles from Waukesha. This photo was made by Charles Philip Fox of Oconomowoc, Wisc. No. 2 photo, furnished by Chris Audibert of New York City, shows RB&BB stake driver being unloaded at Nashua, N. H. on June 22, 1940.

No. 3 photo, furnished by Gordon M. Potter of St. Joseph, Mich., shows the "SPAIN" Band Wagon, formerly with the Barnum & Bailey Circus. Does anyone have the history of this wagon? No. 4 photo, furnished by Dr. E. N. Olzendam of Manchester, N. H., was taken on the Sells-Floto Circus in 1924.

These circus pictures are mailed to CHS members only. Data of the two photos mailed in November will be found on page 8 of the July issue.

## THANKS

Your publisher wishes to thank the following for items received: Joseph L. Tracy, Chas. H. White, George L. Green, J. B. Harrop, Burns M. Kattenberg, Charles Kitto, Charles P. Fox, Chalmers Condon, Bette Leonard, Frank Kindler, C. Spencer Chambers, Earl H. Strouse, Lou Hayek, Ed Hillhouse, F. L. McClintock, Lloyd Bender, Clarence Shank, Clyde Patterson, Charlie Campbell, Hi Lo Merk, Fay F. Reed, Robert D. Good.

In the Nov. 11th edition of "Believe It Or Not" by Bob Ripley, appeared a drawing of "Jo-Jo," the dog-faced calf, owned by P. L. Plumley of East Liverpool, Ohio. This was sent in by new C. H. S. member George L. Green of East Liverpool.

## CIRCUS PHOTOS

EDDIE JACKSON  
Box 477, Macon, Ga.



# Charles H. "Dad" White

Among the many favorite members of the Circus Historical Society is Charles H. Dad White, C. H. S. Member No. 101, who makes his home at Fredonia, Kansas. "Dad" White was a famed lion trainer with P. T. Barnum from 1872 to 1878 and still travels the nation to see a circus if they have a "cat act."

Everyone likes "Dad" White and he has become one of the favorites among members of the organization that is first in his heart . . . the Circus Historical Society. Well met and with a pleasing personality, it is a pleasure to sit and hear him relate circus experiences of the past. During the past year he attended the CHS convention at South Bend and visited many circuses, including the RB&BB of which he was a former employee.

"Dad" has written his life in long-hand . . . this book is neatly bound and pasted on one of the pages is a clipping from the New Orleans Weekly Picayune of July 6, 1872, that reads as follows:

"Barnum Show was wrecked after leaving Erie, Pa., some days ago from the graphic account which appeared in the Titusville, Pa. Courier, we copy as follows: "It was speedily discovered that a cage containing two royal Asiatic Lions, was among the wreck and the terrified performers were not long on ascertaining that those monarchs of the jungle were loose and unharmed. This fact added to the terror of the scene and a stampede for safety ensued. Prof. Chas. White, the celebrated lion tamer alone remained undismayed and immediately began perfecting his arrangements to secure his pets of feat, as may be supposed, was not so easily accomplished. Arraying himself with an ordinary rawhide whip, Prof. White advanced toward the spot where the two unleashed brutes stood glancing ferociously about them, but he had not approached very near when he was greeted with a terrific roar from the male, which broke the stillness of the night in an awful and startling manner. It meant business, and as the great beast stood erect lashing his tawny sides

with his tail, it was evident that for the time at least, he was monarch of all he surveyed. The little kitten baby lion partook of the general excitement and mewed piteously, at times the lioness would seize it in her mouth and look furiously about, as if upon the point of leaping into the darkness in search of a safe retreat and for a time things looked squally.

"The lion tamer, however, was at work, and procuring a stout rope he succeeded in throwing it over the head of the male lion and in a few minutes he was securely fastened to a tree. The female, however, with her perverseness peculiar to her sex, and perhaps infuriated by the recent loss of two of her kittens, was not so tractable and showed fight, but Prof. White's determined manner soon brought her to terms and slipped the young one and slowly dragged it into an empty cage, the mother was induced to follow and thus both the ferocious beasts were secured and all immediate danger from them was over."

"Dad" White stated, "that he was fifteen years old at that time and it was his first season with his father on the show. Two flats were wrecked tipping over two cages, one had the cats and two of three cubs were killed."

Although 91 years of age, you wouldn't believe it, and he is still very active and enjoys his interest . . . the circus and the railroads.

---

---

## WANTED GREAT WALLACE AND HAGENBECK-WALLACE Combined Routes

Please advise which ones you have and what you are asking for same. Just a two-written list will suffice. I do not care for the route book.

DR. H. POWERS  
110 1/2 E. Washington Ave.  
South Bend 1, Ind.

---



# My Experiences as Circus Attorney

By John C. Graham  
Butler, Pa.

Frequently I am asked, "How did you become identified with the seven different circuses you have represented as their attorney?" My reply is "Chronological," dating back to the migration of Germans to America after the Franco-Prussian War.

Among these, my maternal grandparents, Michael and Barbara Zimmerman, who located first in Philadelphia, where my mother was born, and later, came to Butler in 1834, purchased what was then the "Rising Sun Hotel," now the "Willard," where the daily Pittsburgh to Butler, to Mercer, to Meadville, to Erie stages stopped overnight, it being a four-day trip and my mother, being a finished musician, would entertain on her piano—farmers, jurymen, and others—the personnel of wagon circuses, exhibiting in Butler, being summer guests.

Among these was Dan Rice, a still-noted and not-forgotten clown and the owner of the "Dan Rice Circus," who brought it into Butler on a Sunday in 1863, was arrested for breaking the Sabbath day and held before "Old Gregory," the then squire, paid his fine, exhibited on the Diamond, and announced in the circus that he would never bring his circus back to Butler.

So, in 1867, she and Walter L. Graham, a flourishing young lawyer, who had been a nominee of Abraham Lincoln, were married and taking an eastern wedding trip, visited Barnum's Museum in New York, which she often related.

On October 8, 1868, I was born and as a two-year old, with golden curly hair, she would, after hearing me say my prayer, "Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep," and the German prayer, "Ingley Cum Mach Me Frum," (Angels Come And Make Me Good) would tell me about Dan Rice's Circus and the Fat Lady in Barnum's Museum. Night after night, I would insist upon hearing about Dan Rice's wonderful circus.

When four years old, she had my colored nurse (May Holmes) take me to see "Bob Hunting," another

famous clown, who owned the Hunting Circus, which originated in New Castle. Since that date, 1872, I have not missed in any year, attending circus performances in Butler, nearby cities or abroad.

Gradually becoming acquainted with the personnel of the different circuses showing the tri-state territory, and permitted to "make parades" on the band wagons or the "Overland Coach," with the "Squaws" of Ranch 101, or appearing in the ring as a bridesmaid in the "Clown Wedding," or band—finally, my boyhood ambition was gratified when Ralph Clawson, legal adjuster for Hagenbeck Wallace Circus, had Jess Adkins, manager of that circus, assign me a stateroom for a trip out of Pitts-

## ROYAL BROS. ONE RING CIRCUS ROUTE BOOK "the circus beautiful"

NOW FOR SALE

Route, Program, Details, Statistics, Illustrations, Stories, Handsome Cover, a must for every collector.

LIMITED EDITION  
Free Souvenir With Each Copy  
\$1.00 POSTPAID

Order yours from

MISS VIRGINIA PATTON  
23 Smythe St., Monaghan  
Greenville, S. C.



to Wheeling. That lawyer later wanted me to allow him a certain amount and he would divide up. Later he had two other cases and he found me tough. At another date, when Hagenbeck Wallace Circus had a "plaster," I assisted Ralph Clawson, their legal adjuster, in settling the case. Eddie Vaughn transferred to the legal department of Ringling Circus, under Frank Cook, and my connection was established with the "Big Show."

In 1934, the lease of Madison Square Garden was expiring and the Garden management boosted the rent so much that a dispute arose and Mugivans and Bowers, who then owned Sells-Floto, John Robinson, Hagenbeck Wallace and Charlie Sparks Circuses offered to cover the rental demands of executives of Madison Square Garden. That controversy resulted in the purchase, by Mr. John Ringling, of those circuses from Mugivans and Bowers for \$3,000,000. He had to borrow \$600,000 of that money from the Prudens Realty Company of New York, and they required him to turn over the management of the "Big Show" to their man, Sam Gumpertz, who managed it for six years at a salary of \$25,000 per year. Finally, Mr. Ringling employed me to secure him a loan of \$300,000 to pay off Prudens and give him needed cash. Financing large loans at that period was part of my business. I was working on his loan when he died, which I always regretted as I formed a sincere friendship for him.

During Mr. Gumpertz' management of Ringlings, after attending a reunion of my class at Lafayette College in 1936, at Easton, I went over to New York and up the Hudson on Sunday, to Poughkeepsie. Ringlings were exhibiting there Monday and when I went in the main entrance that afternoon, Mr. Gumpertz said, "Mr. Graham, you are the very man I want to see, as on Saturday night, I was arrested in Scranton for violating a law that was passed in 1883, making it a misdemeanor to permit an act that endangered life. I am released on \$1000 bail and I want you to see that said law is repealed." Returning to my Butler office, I

checked up on his case and it required four years and two sessions of the Pennsylvania Legislature to have it repealed and signed by our governor. Other Harrisburg cases were securing a refund of \$2150 for Charlie Sparks of excess taxes demanded and paid under a ruling of then Attorney General Echnader, who ruled that under the Amusement Tax Act of 1913, motorized shows had to pay for each motorized vehicle. For instance, 46 trucks were equal to 46 railroad cars, 72 feet long, that would carry up to 5 circus cages or trucks. I disputed his interpretation of that law, made a personal appeal to the Commission of five in Harrisburg and was ruled against, but finally filed a similar case in Franklin for the Webbs, who owned a new motorized circus, known as "Russell Brothers," before Judge McCracken of Venango county, who ruled that I was right, that refunded their money and resulted in the Harrisburg Board also ruling accordingly. Then I had to have the Legislature pass an act authorizing the

Next Page, Please

To all my Friends  
Both far and near  
I wish a Happy  
Prosperous Year.



## The Great Karland Shows

### THREE RING MAGIC CIRCUS

Dr. C. S. Karland Frischkorn,  
Owner

338 Boush St.,  
Norfolk 10, Virginia



burgh with the circus and I voluntarily ended in Richmond where, when the parade had just started from the fairgrounds, a lion escaped from the cage "up front," tore into the lead horses, got scared and ran into an open factory building, where a "state dick" shot it with no casualties, except scaring the "stenog" into fits. Had the escape been made 30 minutes later, downtown in Richmond (the streets lined with people), many deaths would have occurred.

Another thrill for me, when riding on the clown band wagon in Scranton, the brakes did not work when we were going down grade on a viaduct leading to the lot (the six horses had to run), our band members jumped off behind and I "rode it out" with the driver, passing several cages and the big band wagon (a miracle.)

Being a "free lance" when with any of the circuses, I was standing in the "Big Top" of Ringlings one evening when a young lady came up to me and held up her hand with blood gushing from her fingers, and stating a camel had bitten her. I ordered an "attachee" to take her back stage to the doctor's wagon, who dressed it, and when Frank Cook, their legal adjuster, came back, I was having her sign a "release from damages." I seated and stayed with her for the performance and saved Ringlings from an attachment the next day in Akron, which she realized by opening her purse and showing me the card of a lawyer whom she knew in the Union Trust Bank Building, where she was employed.

Another episode for me in Cleveland, June 24, 1946, when about 9:00 p. m., a terrific storm arose over Lake Erie, our canvas flapping and poles jumping, a "noted wire actor" in the center ring, jumped and ran out. The audience arose "en masse." Fortunately, I was seated in the front row, center of the grandstand. I stepped to the center ring, held up my hands, and shouted to the people to "be seated" as the storm was abating. That plea, with the band continuing playing, quieted the people. The storm did pass over soon thereafter and another disaster was averted.

I have always regretted that I was not sitting in front of Merle

Evans' wonderful "band" that day in Hartford—just missing it by Fate, as I was in New York, intending to go up to New England and be with the Ringlings for a few days, when a Butler case required my return.

My first legal case was in Pittsburgh, July 8, 1930, when Miller Brothers "Ranch 101" came into Allegheny on a Sunday, and when setting up, a young "smart alec" poked a buffalo in the snoot, was warned to quit and disregarding orders, was thrown up into the air—had his arm broken and face injured. Eddie Vaughn, their legal adjuster, had him hospitalized and offered to pay for his injuries. However, the incident was published in Monday's papers, an ambulance chasing lawyer tied him up on a 60% contingent fee, had a "plaster" issued and on Tuesday, about 4:00 o'clock, entering my Pittsburgh office from the courthouse, my stenographer informed me that M. Vaughn wanted me right away at the sheriff's office. Going there, we arranged a bond and Ranch 101 moved that night

---

### MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

from

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Donewirth

Mrs. B. M. Shevlin

Charles Gerlach

---

### LITTLE ANNIE OAKLEY & OTHER RUGGED PEOPLE

\$3.50 Postpaid. Order Today

**THE GUNROOM BOOKSELLERS**  
North Castine Maine

---

### A MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

Best Wishes for the new year of 1949 for all C. H. S. members and Circus Friends . . . May 1949 Season be the Best of All.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Tracy

---



State Treasurer to refund \$2150 to Mr. Sparks.

Twelve years ago Cole Brothers and Clyde Beatty Circus was subject to a fine of \$1400 by the State Treasurer for not taking out Workmen's Compensation. On my way to New York to see the Louis-Schmelling fight, I stopped at Harrisburg to be with Cole Circus. After "making parade," and entering the cook tent for luncheon, Doc Partello, who was legal adjuster, informed me that a deputy attorney-general, an officer, and clerk had been to see him and were going to attach the circus. He stated that "their attorney was uptown" and to come back at 1:00 o'clock, which they did and I cooled them off and had them remit the fine of \$1400 and issue a policy for the remaining five days the circus would be in Pennsylvania for \$156. Another tax question with a threat from Deputy Attorney-General Shockley, that he would attach the circus, made it obligatory for me to forget my witnessing the Schmelling fight and stay with the circus. About 1:00 a. m., the circus loaded for Altoona. I was awakened by Mr. Adkins and requested to stay over and attend a hearing before an alderman, at 11:00 next day, of three circus men who had been arrested for mauling up a bunch of circus trailers, who had been following the circus and selling toys, balloons, etc. At the hearing, that bunch with their attorney, demanded \$1500 for black eyes and goods destroyed. It settled that case for \$156, preventing an attachment while the circus was still in Pennsylvania.

When the circus was "pulling down" in Butler, June 4, an old man and his 38-year-old son raised a fuss in the sideshow, which resulted in a "Hey Rube" and they were severely used up. Later, Joe Haworth, the legal adjuster, phoned me from Erie to check up on the injuries, which I did and concluded that the only way I could defend, with a demand of \$3150 for their injuries from the circus, was to catch it again, which I did at Toledo, and one by one, interview the participants and decided on my method of defense. Realizing that the little old man had been so severely punished, with three weeks in the Butler hospital, I finally offered him \$600 and the son \$100 to withdraw criminal

proceedings then pending, which was approved by Mr. Haworth. I paid them and today have the settlement ready to mail to them.

Another settlement by me was the Russell Brothers Circus when twenty truck drivers and Mr. Webb, the owner, were arrested by state dicks when they were entering Butler township, charged with driving without proper licenses, fined \$525.00 and costs or 5 days in jail, where they were committed. Mrs. Webb had me up early and I had the time part of the sentence reduced to one day and then had them all released after one hour's commitment and we paid the squire's and constabulary costs of \$56.00 under the Penal law of Pennsylvania. Various other "squawks" for truck circuses have been settled by me. I have enjoyed their confidence and my delightful visits with them all.

In conclusion, I desire to add that circus people, in my opinion, are much better morally than credited—no drinking, little smoking, and girls that are "straighter" than the average drug store habitue.

---

## "MISSIE"

The life and times of Annie Oakley, written by a niece of the World's Greatest Woman Rifle Shot.

The author will autograph and mail the book anywhere, price \$3.50.

8x10 pictures of Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill—\$1.00.

### Annie Fern Swartwout

Greenville, Ohio

---



# Season's Greetings



C. Spencer Chambers

P. O. Box 722

Syracuse 1, N. Y., U. S. A.

Chris W. Viohl Jr.  
2203 W. 18th St.  
Wilmington 51, Dela. CHS04